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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

6 FEBRUARY 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Diego - San Ysidro POE Closes Due to Protests for 5th Consecutive Weekend

(U) The San Ysidro Port of Entry has reopened after closing due to protests this weekend, the California Highway Patrol confirmed. This is the 5th consecutive weekend that the Port of Entry has been closed. CalTrans announced other road closures in the area, including westbound State Route 905 to southbound Interstate 805, and westbound SR 905 to southbound Interstate 5. Participants in the boycott are trying to emphasize the impact they have on San Diego-area economy. Protesters continue to voice their objections to a sudden hike in gas prices in Mexico: 20 percent in one day, as well as recent executive actions signed by President Trump regarding border security.

SOURCE: 5 February 2017, NBC San Diego

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Georgia – Flu Spreads Across 40 States

(U) Atlanta – Health officials across the United States are still urging people to get their flu vaccines as the virus continues to spread in 40 states and Puerto Rico and has been associated with 15 pediatric deaths, seven of them reported in the week ending 28 January. The latest report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says over 12,000 cases of influenza A have been reported across the country. Fifty-one of 54 US states and territories are experiencing elevated levels of flu and flu-like illnesses. Flu activity is "high" to "extremely high" in 15 regions. New Jersey, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, New York and South Carolina rank as the states with the highest levels of flu and flu-like illness activity.

SOURCE: 4 February 2017, WSFB

(U) Illinois – Authorities Investigating Swastika Vandalism in Three Major Cities This Weekend

(U) Chicago – Police are investigating a flurry of swastika vandalism over the weekend in three major US cities. Chicago Police released a surveillance video that shows a man smashing the front window of a synagogue and placing swastikas on the front door. The incident is being investigated as a hate crime. In Houston, campus police at Rice University are investigating the swastika vandalism of the school's William Marsh Rice statue. The university reported that a swastika was drawn on the base of the iconic statue in the academic quad Friday night. And in New York City, passengers encountered swastikas and Nazi slogans scrawled on a subway train car Saturday night.

SOURCE: 5 February 2017, CNN

(U) Massachusetts – Anonymous Hackers Shut Down Largest Host of Dark Web Sites

(U) Boston – Freedom Hosting II, the largest host of dark web sites has reportedly been hacked and taken down by a group of hackers allegedly associated with Anonymous. The hackers breached Freedom Hosting II's servers and stole thousands of GB worth data, according to reports. According to independent security researcher, Freedom Hosting II was host to around 15%-20% of all sites on the dark web. This means that the hack took down nearly a fifth of the dark web, a report by Forbes said. The hackers claimed that over 50% of the data stored on the servers contained child pornography.

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According to security researcher Chris Monteiro, the Freedom Hosting II hack may have disrupted a substantial number of botnets, which are increasingly used by cybercriminals to launch large-scale DDoS attacks.

SOURCE: 4 February 2017, International Business Times

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Colombia – About 300 Rebels From FARC Have Not Demobilized

(U) Saiza – Around 300 fighters from Colombia's Marxist FARC rebels will not demobilize under a peace deal, a military commander said, giving the first official figure of guerrillas who may join with crime gangs seeking control of lucrative rebel drug territory. The Andean country and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels agreed late last year to end more than 52 years of war. Colombia's conflict with guerrilla groups and paramilitaries has killed more than 220,000 people. The figure is the first official estimate of how many rebels will not demobilize. More than 6,000 FARC fighters are set to finish arriving at UN camps in the coming days to hand over weapons and begin reintegration programs. Some rebel commanders, especially from units dedicated to drug trafficking or illegal mining in rural jungle areas, have rejected the peace deal and refused to lay down arms.

SOURCE: 4 February 2017, Reuters

(U) Turkey – ISIL Suspects Detained in Turkey Raids Rises to Nearly 750

(U) Istanbul – Turkey has now detained nearly 750 suspects in a police operation against the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL). Anti-terrorism police launched the security operation against people with alleged links to ISIL yesterday, conducting simultaneous raids in 29 provinces, including Istanbul, Ankara and the border provinces of Gaziantep and Sanliurfa. Police seized ISIL documents, digital material and six firearms during the raids.

SOURCE: 6 February 2017, Associated Press

(U) Yemen – AQAP Leader Releases Recorded Speech

(U) Sana'a – The leader of al-Qa'ida's Yemen branch said in a recorded speech released on 4 February that the US raid carried out last week had failed and was a blow to President Donald Trump. Qassim al-Raymi, who became leader of al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in 2015, said that two US helicopters had been downed in the incident and tens of US soldiers were injured. The raid on al-Qa'ida in southern Yemen that took place last week was the first such operation authorized by President Trump as commander-in-chief.

SOURCE: 4 February 2017, Reuters

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Mexico – Drug Tunnel Discovered Near San Ysidro Port of Entry

(U) Tijuana – A drug tunnel had been discovered in Tijuana on 4 February, a federal Mexican official confirmed to NBC 7. The tunnel opening was found inside a home located just 20 meters from the US-Mexico Border, just east of the San Ysidro Port of Entry. According to the official, it is unknown at this time if the tunnel actually reached the US. The house is currently being searched and is secured by Mexican army and local police personnel. No other information was immediately available. SOURCE: 4 February 2017, NBC San Diego

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